



THE ASSAM GAZETTE

অসাধাৰণ

EXTRAORDINARY

প্ৰাপ্ত কৰ্তৃত্বৰ দ্বাৰা প্ৰকাশিত

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GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR

WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

NOTIFICATION

The 8th January, 2025

No.E-233042/48.-

Children are vital to the continued existence of the society. They represent the next generation who will inherit and shape the world. Children contribute to the renewal and progress of society in numerous ways and they represent the future potential of a society. As such, investing resources in child welfare, education, nutrition, and early development helps ensure a society's long-term prosperity and well-being.

2. The initial years after birth are one of rapid growth and development, as a child's brain creates complex neural pathways at an unprecedented speed. Substantial development of the brain is complete by the time the child turns six, as children continue to absorb a staggering amount of information from their experiences and environment. These early experiences lay the foundation for a child's future survival, growth, health and wellbeing. Early childhood development is a period of great opportunity as well as a period of great vulnerability. Many children cannot realise their full potential because of adverse conditions in their environment during this period. Adverse effects to child development in the initial years of life can have life-long consequences and can negatively impact on school readiness and learning potential, mental and physical health.

3. Towards this end, Anganwadi Centres have been set up where children attend for basic pre-school education, supplementary nutrition needs, and for their regular immunization and health screening, including monitoring their growth in terms of weight and height. For this purpose, Government allocates substantial resources for keeping these Centres functional.

4. Anganwadi Workers, assisted by Anganwadi Helpers, are key functionaries who deliver a set of services to children up to 6 years of age, pregnant women, lactating mothers and

adolescent girls which, *inter alia*, includes Supplementary Nutrition, Pre-school Non-formal Education, Nutrition & Health Education, home visits to infants and pregnant women to provide nutrition counselling etc. They are responsible for organizing Community Based Events, Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Days, conducting household surveys, uploading data on the POSHAN Tracker App, registering beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana and other duties as may be assigned by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Govt of India from time to time.

5. For delivery of the above mentioned services and related duties, they are required to keep the Anganwadi Centres duly open and functional. Prolonged closure of Anganwadi Centres due to unauthorized absence of Anganwadi Workers and Anganwadi Helpers or otherwise adversely impacts the efforts to improve the health, nutrition, cognitive development of children and well-being of the target groups. The adverse impacts resulting from such closure of Anganwadi Centres cannot be adequately redressed by subsequent efforts and interventions.

6. Continuous monitoring and evaluation of Anganwadi Centres can significantly improve the health and growth of children. In this context, there is a need to monitor the performance of the Anganwadi Workers and Helpers and they should be assessed and evaluated periodically with regard to their roles and responsibilities, such as:

- a) Whether they are regular in their duties to keep the Anganwadi Centres functional.
- b) Whether Hot Cooked Meals are being served to the children as per prescribed time schedule.
- c) Whether distribution of THR is being duly carried out.
- d) Whether regular monitoring of children's growth is taking place through their weighing and measuring to detect malnutrition early on.
- e) Whether all fields under the POSHAN Tracker portal and other digital platforms are being filled up timely.
- f) Whether required items and kits including Growth Monitoring Devices are being maintained properly.
- g) Their relationship with the parents and guardians of the children enrolled in the Anganwadi Centres – whether the parents and guardians trust them.

7. The Anganwadi Workers and Anganwadi Helpers are honorary workers from the local community. Their voluntary services are accepted on an annual basis subject to satisfactory performance. They are paid honorarium and other incentives for their contribution. Having regard to the above, and notwithstanding anything contained in any other guidelines, and in order to ensure that all services at the Anganwadi Centres are being delivered continuously, it is directed that:

1. The District Level Nutrition Committee, headed by the Deputy Commissioners/ Principal Secretaries in Sixth Schedule Areas, should mandatorily and periodically monitor and evaluate the Anganwadi Centres so as to ensure their optimal functioning with regard to roles and responsibilities illustrated in paragraph 6 hereinabove.
2. The District Commissioners / Principal Secretaries in the Sixth Schedule Councils, District Social Welfare Officers and CDPOs will regularly review the performance of Anganwadi Workers and Anganwadi Helpers.
3. The CDPOs will maintain record of unauthorised absence of the Anganwadi Workers and Anganwadi Helpers. Honorarium and other incentives shall not be admissible to any Anganwadi Worker and Anganwadi Helper for periods of unauthorized absence, if any. To this effect, the CDPO concerned will afford an opportunity to the person concerned to explain her case and take a reasoned decision accordingly within a reasonable time period.

4. Instances of wilful or frequent or prolonged unauthorized absence so as to affect delivery of services in the Anganwadi Centre shall be treated as break in continuous honorary service for all purposes viz. consideration under the 'Terminal Benefit Scheme', eligibility for consideration to the position of Supervisors and Anganwadi Workers, as the case may be, etc., after following the procedure for affording an opportunity as outlined in the paragraph 7(3) above.
5. Deficiency or negligence in delivery of services or instances of wilful or frequent or prolonged unauthorized absence may also affect subsequent annual acceptance of voluntary services of the Anganwadi Workers and Anganwadi Helpers concerned.
6. District Commissioners / Principal Secretaries in the Sixth Schedule Councils are authorized to remove the Anganwadi Workers and Anganwadi Helpers from their voluntary services in instances of wilful or frequent or prolonged unauthorised absence or who are uninterested or ineffective. To this effect, a reasonable opportunity should be provided to the person concerned to explain her position, and taking into account the replies, if any, a reasoned order shall be passed, copy of which should be marked to the Director of Women and Child Development, DSWO, CDPO and the person concerned. Subsequent to such removal, resultant vacancies will be expeditiously filled up as per laid down instructions.
7. In the interim, if it is felt that filling up the positions of Anganwadi Workers and Anganwadi Helpers is likely to take time, the Districts Commissioners/ Principal Secretaries in the Sixth Schedule Districts may appoint on purely temporary basis, a competent and highly motivated woman possessing the requisite qualifications, with applicable honorarium, till such positions are duly filled up.
8. In addition to the above, the Director, Women & Child Development, through a core team of officials, should ensure that the POSHAN Tracker is updated timely. This core team should also analyse the data with respect to attendance of Anganwadi Workers, Anganwadi Helpers, opening of Anganwadi Centres, attendance of children, and other parameters. This team should also monitor Take Home Ration and Hot Cooked Meals through POSHAN Tracker.

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Women and Child Development Department.